MEXICO

THE ORGAN OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO

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THE ORGAN OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO

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MEXICO

THE ORGAN OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO

Vol. 43 April — June 1953 No. 2

DEDICATION

This official organ of the Methodist Church of Mexico takes pleasure in dedicating this number to the New Mexico, West Oklahoma, East Oklahoma, South West Texas, North West Texas, and Texas Conference as a recognition of the help, both material and spiritual, which they have given our work through some of their ministers and congregations. At the same time we desire to express our gratitude to Bishops W. Angie Smith, Frank A. Smith, and Paul Martin, who preside over the above mentioned Conferences, for their splendid missionary spirit and the interest they have taken in our work.

MEXICO wishes all success to these Conferences.

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BE SURE TO READ PAGE 32

CHIHUAHUA

MEXICO takes great pleasure in devoting most of this number to our work in Chihuahua, one of our strong Methodist centers. We are grateful to each one who has contributed articles and, specially, to Mrs. and Mrs., L. B. Newberry who gathered the material and wrote or translated all the articles not otherwise designated.

THE CHIHUAHUA CHURCH

The Chihuahua Methodist Church is one of the great Protestant churches in Mexico. It was one of the first churches to become self supporting. Even during the dark days of the revolution, when many of its members were scattered, this church continued to pay its pastor. The Chihuahua Church has probably sent forth more ministers to preach the gospel than any other Methodist Church in the Republic. The first bishop of the Methodist Church of Mexico received his call to preach in Chihuahua and was given his license to preach by the Chihuahua Methodist Church.

The Church of Chihuahua has over seven hundred members. The congregation usually fills the main auditorium at the Sunday morning service and sometimes overflows all the available space. The large number that pours out into the street at the conclusion of the service is quite impressive. The Church has a vested choir and uses a Hammond Organ. A set of Maas Chimes in the church tower is heard daily throughout the city.

The church has the following departments which are well organized and actively at work:

Sunday School
Woman's Missionary Society
Laymen's Fraternal organization
Young People's League
Junior church

There is hardly a night that passes but what some kind of activity is going on at the church.

The financial budget for the church during the present year is $ 37,182.00 (pesos) ($ 4,323.00 dollars). This does not include other amounts that are spent for emergencies and philanthropic purposes.

The Chihuahua Church has distinguised itself over the years for its fidelity, its liberality, and for its love for the cause of Christ.

THE FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CHIHUAHUA CHURCH

One of the interesting organizations in connection with the work in Chihuahua is its fraternal organization which is composed of some of the most faithful members of the church. This organization meets every Tuesday night and at the conclusion of their devotional service they spend quite a bit of their time hearing reports and discussing plans in reference to their missionary activities which they are carrying on in the small towns and villages. In fact, their missionary fervor as well as the spirit which they have shown in carrying forward their work, have aroused unusual interest, even among the membership of the church.

The above movement grew out of the fact that the attention of some of the laymen was attracted to the small amount of religious effort that was being made in carrying the gospel to the villages and towns which are accessible to the city of Chihuahua. Some were of the opinion that there was a good reason for not having done anything because of a shortage of pastors and a lack of funds for that purpose. But those who were most interested felt keenly that such opportunity and such need should not be dismissed with that kind of answer. The question was asked if the laymen could not accept this challenge. The more they discussed the matter, the less difficulties

became and the greater their desire increased to do something. Yes, something almost revolutionary, and especially in a church where the idea prevailed that matters of this character should be left with the pastor and the district elder. Now the laymen were to go forth stretching out their arms to those living in the highways and byways, that they too might have life and hope in Christ Jesus. Could it be done?

The first thing the Fraternidad did toward putting into action their missionary plans was to provide the money for a man to give all his time to a congregation down on the Conchos River. This congregation was static as to its service and its outlook, but with the assistance it was to receive from our organization, it was to come back to life again. Its membership has now increased in a manner that has been heartening. Twenty-five new members have been received into the church.

In addition to the above, our organization named two leaders, each of whom was to form a group of evangelistic workers whose mission was to carry the gospel message to the near-by towns and villages wherever there was an opening. It seemed that God had prepared the way for this movement as no difficulty was encountered in finding those among our church members who were willing to volunteer for this service. In fact, although it has now been more than two years since our work began, we frequently do not have enough space in the car to take along all those who are anxious to share in this wonderful work which we have had faith enough to attempt in our Saviour's name.

In a separate article of this number of "Mexico" under the title "Lucy Harper Social Center" the reader may learn about the remarkable work being done by Sr. Elias Hernandez and his group at Sacramento. This work bids fair to transform the whole life of the community. Many will watch these efforts with great interest.

The writer of this article will now tell of some of the things his group is accomplishing and how a handful of enthusiastic workers, with God's blessings, have been able to forge ahead.

The first town our group visited was El Charco. This place had been able to resist, over the years, any efforts that had been made to carry the Gospel to its inhabitants. The town was an agricultural community but was well known for its extreme religious ideas. Vice and evil of different kinds were in evidence at the little "cantinas" on the corners where boys and idle men were congregated. The community had built up strong opposition toward any one who might want to change the "status quo".

With the above picture in mind it is not difficult to see that our prospects for establishing work in the village, or even finding a place for holding a religious service, were not very hopeful. In fact, we had no assurance that there was any one in the entire village who might be interested in the purpose of our visit. It was only through the efforts of a Christian brother who lived near the village, and God's help, that we were able to secure a meeting place.

Upon the arrival of our group we were received with suspicious eyes, and it was apparent that the hearts of those about us were not altogether with us. On occasions such as these we never attempt to follow any stereotyped form of conducting our meetings. At first our chief purpose is to win the confidence of the people and impress those present with our sincerity. We assure them that we are interested in the community and we are there to do good, not evil. We want to help those who desire to live a better life. We believe that all men who put Christ first in their lives and their homes can find joy and happiness, and may become useful and helpful wherever they may live. We try to take with us those who can present dynamic messages, but this time there must have been a con-

siderable undercurrent of opposition. We did not get a rain check to hold our service in the same place upon our return. Closed doors are what test our faith. Strong faith is what opens them. Before we returned a good woman sent us word that we might hold our services in her home. This good woman became our first convert. We now have received seven into the church at El Charco.

The next place we entered was Lázaro Cárdenas, also situated in an agricultural district. We had become interested in this place because it was a growing village that had recently sprung up. People who settle in new places are, as a rule, looking for better opportunities and are susceptible to new orientations. They frequently are fleeing from outmoded customs and hopeless situations. They are more open-minded than you usually find in other places. On this kind of soil it is not difficult for the gospel to take root. How my heart yearned to enter that place with my group of workers! Not knowing any one in the village nor how to get a foothold was my chief concern. But God was to open the way in a manner I least anticipated.

One day my phone rang. A voice said, "There is a woman here who is looking for some one to hold services in the town of Lázaro Cárdenas." It was such a direct answer to my prayer that I could hardly believe what my ears heard. My answer was, "Tell the woman I will be there immediately."

The following Sunday our group of workers arrived in Lázaro Cárdenas. We found quite a number of people gathered in a private home awaiting us. The number keeps growing. At our last visit four adults were received into the church by profession of faith and four infants were baptized. We have bought a piece of property, and plan to erect a church. Indeed, "God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform."

Can God open closed doors? Can He overcome difficulties as big as mountains? He did at El Charco. He did it at Lázaro Cárdenas.

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FOR TOURISTS ONLY

We invite you to visit our Methodist work when you come to Mexico. To get in touch with our workers, we give you the following telephone numbers:

In Monterrey: call number 22-89.
In Chihuahua: call number 23-51 or 146.
In Mexico City: call 13-08-89 or 13-42-71 or 16-14-80.

AN OPPORTUNITY

We have, in our church in Chihuahua, a young girl who, over a period of years, has saved her nickels and dimes by denying herself candy, sodas, the movies, and many other things. When she had saved a sufficient amount, she purchased a lot situated in what has recently become a rapidly growing part of the city. She now offers this lot as a gift to the Methodist Church with the one request that a church building be constructed on the property in order to perpetuate her sacrificial offering for God's glory.

This lot is located in a part of the city of Chihuahua where there is no church building of any kind and hence offers an unsuual opportunity for extending the Lord's Kingdom. A building adequate for present needs can be constructed for about three thousand dollars. The laymen of the Methodist Church in Chihuahua are willing to include this new work in their missionary program provided that the above church building can be constructed.

SANATORIO PALMORE

Senora Maria Q. de Fraustro.

Sanatorio Palmore is an institution which is highly regarded by both nationals and foreingners, not only locally, but throughout the entire state of Chihuahua. In its purpose to render a high type of service this institution is making a special effort to respond to the great confidence that the people have placed in it. The Sanatorio Palmore gives continuous service day and night without excepting holidays. The chief center of attention are the patients who knock at its doors, where all are received without consideration of the class from which they come or the creed to which they adhere. We thank God for this institution and for what it signifies to those who suffer.

While Sanatorio Palmore offers help to the suffering, at the same time it sends forth, year by year, groups of nurses skillfully trained to exercise their sacred mission of service The preparation of these nurses represents strenuous work and great sacrifice on the part of their teachers who richly deserve the gratitude they receive. The large number who attend the graduation exercises of the nurses' school, the applause, the profusion of floral gifts, the "abrazos", and the congratulations, all very clearly demonstrate the high estimation and appreciation felt for the work being done at Sanatorio Palmore. These manifestations are greatly appreciated. However, it is realized that in addition to these expressions of encouragement and praise there is something still lacking, something to be done without ostentation but something that has great spiritual value whose benefit is not limited to time - this is the constant Christian influence. This influence is like the drop of water which by constantly falling upon the rock finally perforates it. We count upon God's help for this most important task. Paul says: "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

Sanatorio Palmore, Chihuahua
Graduation, January 17, 1953, in the auditorium of the State Institute

God put into man's hand that which he is able to do and reserves for himself the impossible. Here we sow and water but God gives the increase. We recognize the undeniable duty to sow and to water in order that God may give the increase.

Solomon cousels persistence: "In the morning (this is the first opportunity) sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand, for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that or whether they shall be alike good," and Paul says to Timothy: "The husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."

Connecting the above quotations from God's word a beautiful picture is formed, one which should be kept before the eyes of each Christian worker for his encouragement.

During these last months the Lord has given us some new experiences. In the midst of the rush of professional examinations and the preparation for the grdauation exercises, one of the graduates expressed her desire to be baptized and received into the Protestant church. Although this was done, it signified serious problems on the part of family and friends. We can not fail to bless the Lord for her decision. Another one of the graduates, who preferred to remain and work in her Alma Mater, in a quiet and trustful way accepted Christ as her only Saviour. One of the most encouraging results of her experience was that she has been able to interest her family in the things of God. Thus, much fruit is still to be harvested. A first-year student wrote with joy to her mother that from time to time she accompanies the hymns on the piano. The mother, although a Catholic, is highly pleased.

With great pleasure we heard one of the graduates who was converted here explaining the way of salvation to one of the hired help. Two of these have recently accepted the gospel.

One of them has received baptism and has been strongly tested due to opposition from her family. However, it is known that wherever opposition appears, the Christian faith grows stronger. These two study their Bibles, pray, and use the "Upper Room" for religious devotions in their homes. One of these invited her husband to the church services and when the call was made at the close of the sermon he was one of the first to go forward to the altar. This caused great joy to his wife. On the way home the husband made the following remark, "I believe this is the truth." Now he defends his wife against the reproaches of their families.

These are a few cases which we have been able to observe, and which have brought to us comfort and encouragement. However, we are sure there are many more which the physical eye has not seen but which the God of love is directing in a quiet and watchful way. We feel that the day will come when they, too, will give glory to God. "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

Do you not think it worth while to put Sanatorio Palmore on your prayer list, as an important part of the missionary work in Mexico? We not only need economic help but we are very greatly in need of spiritual help and guidance. Every Christian should feel responsible for the work of the Lord.

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EMERGENCY

We are glad to learn that Miss Irene Nixon who was called to the United States recently, due to the serious illness of her mother, has now been able to return to her work in Chihuahua.

HAPPENINGS IN AND AROUND SANATORIO PALMORE

Pearl L. Hall, Superintendent.

In December we sat day after day while the graduating class wrote their professional examinations. It gave us an opportunity to study the individual types, think of their back grounds and the reasons which probably brought them to us to study nurse training. There in front of me was Gudrun, brought from Europe to Mexico as an infant by her Lutheran parents, Hella who had her early childhood and primary education in Europe, Bohumila whose parents came from Czechoslovakia in time for her to be born a Mexican citizen, Socorro from just around the corner and whom we've know nearly all her life, and Inez from our own city.

Then there is the group, Irene, Susana, Elena, Angelina, Otila and Isabel from other towns in this state, some of them on scholarships from Mining Syndicates; Francisca from a small Indian town in the Southern part of Mexico; and there are Teresa, Estela, Emeria and Mercedes from distant cities who came to us either attracted by the reputation of our school, or because their parents wanted them in a school with a Christian atmosphere. And lastly, there is Josefina, still with a drawn look of sadness on her face because, only three short months before, her beloved father was martyred by religious fanatics.

How short the three years training must have seemed to some, how long to others. What heartaches, what problems have been met and solved and how tiresome all the discipline! But in January all that was forgotten on graduation day, in the midst of flowers, telegrams, gifts, friends and relatives, new white uniforms, and their red lined blue capes.

Sanatorio Palmore
Graduating Class, 1952

And afterward, what? Where are they all? What contribution will they make to the progress of their country, the uplifting of their profession, the betterment of humanity? Six of them are staying on with us for longer or shorter time, either to acquire more training or to assist in different departments of the hospital. Two accepted positions in the Government Mental Hospital here in Chihuahua, one is working in a Clinic owned and run by a Mining Syndicate for the benefit of employees' families, one is employed by the newly organized blood and bone bank here in Chihuahua, three have accepted positions in hospitals in Mexico City, and the other four have returned to their homes and found employment so they can be near their families.

And now there is a new group of students nearly ready for their caps and who are going through much the same experiences as those who have just graduated. And so it goes year after year.

Aside from the school and students, we must tell you of our new operating rooms in use since December first. For the first time in our history we have a surgical unit really adequate, and, besides, almost all the equipment is new. Also, this year we have an intern in surgery, and a doctor in charge of the Anesthesia department.

At the moment we are busy making changes which will enable us to enlarge our Pharmacy, and within a very few weeks we expect to start more building which will include an auditorium for the school which will be financed largely by the alumnae.

Speaking of alumnae, we have had most interesting letters from one of them who is with UNESCO in Iraq, telling about the people and customs and how UNESCO goes about the work of winning the confidence and finding ways and means of helping the people raise their standard of health and

LIFE'S LAST MOMENT SPENT IN GOD'S SERVICE

Emma L. Eldridge.

On March 24 Sra. Manuela Vda. de Franco was suddenly called to enter the Eternal Home.

It was twenty-five years ago that I became acquainted with her. A year before that she had been living with her husband and five children in the mountain region near Guadalupe Calvo when tragedy struck. Her husband and oldest son were killed in a neighborhood feud. A few months later she moved to Parral with her four remaining children, not knowing where they were going to live or how they were going to make a living.

Sra. Franco came with the determination to give her children a Christian education whatever sacrifice it might cost. She immediately became a member of the Methodsit Church, and the children entered Colegio Progreso.

It was a hard struggle for the mother and oldest daughter to provide food and clothing for the family, but they were faithful in their efforts. After a while the mother found employment in the Boarding Home of Colegio Progreso. It was there that a very small incident revealed how the love of God had filled her heart.

One afternoon when she was out for her rest period a woman came to the door and inquired for her. I told the woman that she was not there and asked if I could give her a message. The woman handed me some money and said, "Please give this to Manuela and tell her María brought it. When Manuela returned and I gave her the money, I was wondering just who "María" could be and why her message was brief. In answer to my questioning look Manuel smiled and nodded her head. "Yes," she said, "she is the mother of the boy who killed my son. She arrived here in Parral a few weeks ago, and

I happened to meet her on the street. She needed money, for she had none, so I lent her what I had in my purse." Then with greater earnestness Manuel continued, "Her son is in Parral, too, but he avoids me. I have been looking for him and I told María that I want to see him. He needs not fear me. I just want to tell him of the Gospel of the love of Christ."

"And so she did," said Manuela's daughter as I related this incident to her while we sat beside her mother's casket a few days ago. "The boy died a few months after he came to Parral," she continued, "but before his death my mother found him and gave him the Gospel message."

After years of struggle in bringing up her children, and other years of service as Bible Woman for our church in Chihuahua, Sra. Franco had a long period of illness that made it impossible for her to attend church for months at a time. At last she was able to go out again. She was in the worship service on several consecutive Sundays and attended the meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society last Monday. Neighborhood prayer meetings were being organized throughout the city and she scheduled one for her home on Tuesday afternoon, March 24. Her invitation to her friends and neighbors was urgent and repeated. She especially wanted her nieces to be present. She said she wanted every one to come prepared to *sing*. She wanted their hymns to express the *joy* of their faith.

Tuesday at about noon she went out to use a neighbor's telephone to give one last repeated, loving invitation to some of her friends and relatives to come. On her return home, her heart beat ceased just after she entered the house. The very last moment of her life had been dedicated to giving the Message that she had loved to tell thru so many years.

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"LUCY HARPER" SOCIAL CENTER

In connection with the missionary activities of the fraternal organization of the Methodist Church of Chihuahua, Brother Elias Hernandez was appointed as one of the lay leaders in charge of the work at Sacramento, a small village in an agricultural colony of eight hundred inhabitants, situated sixteen miles from Chihuahua, near the Chihuahua — El Paso highway.

In this work Bro. Hernandez has been associated with quite a number of enthusiastic workers who formed this group. He began the work in Sacramento in 1952 and has recently secured a large plot of ground on which has been constructed a very interesting building for use as a social center.

The building contains a large reading room which, with its rostrum, provides also an appropriate place for fiestas or for public lectures. On the wall in this room is seen the following Bible quotation in large letters: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." There is another spacious room which is to be used for religious purposes. This room, well furnished, and provided with a new organ, can comfortably seat eighty people. The Sunday School is held here and is well attended. Usually there are present about fifty adults and twenty children. Ninety-five percent of those who attend are Catholics who are interested in knowing the truth through the reading of the Bible.

Two rooms of the building are occupied by the young woman in charge and her assistant. The director, Miss Amparo de Leon, is one of our deaconesses who was duly appointed to this work by Bishop Eleazar Guerra. The building has, also, a special sewing room with two sewing machines to be used without cost by the housewives of the village. Lessons in sewing are given to all who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity.

In connection with the building there are two bathrooms supplied with both hot and cold water. Free service is extended to the students and to those of the neighborhood who may wish to avail temselves of these privileges. A large athletic field is being developed and arrangements are being made for a teacher from the Y. M. C. A. to organize teams of baseball and basket ball. A small electric plant has been provided for the use of the building.

Bro. Elias Hernandez has personally assumed all the expense connected with the building of this plant, and has agreed to pay all running expenses during the present Conference year of 1953.

On the 15th of September of the past year the building referred to in this article was inaugurated in the name of Miss Lucy Harper who was, until 1913, the assitant principal of Palmore College and the beloved teacher of Mr. Hernandez. Miss Harper was in charge of the Boys' Department, and Mr. Hernandez looked upon her as his second mother. As an expression of gratitude to her he dedicated this Social Center to her memory.

The many friends of Brother Hernandez highly appreciate what he has done, both in his efforts to extend the Word of God, and in his being a real friend and a blessing to the inhabitants of the little village of Sacramento where he has rendered his services with faith and love. We pray that God may richly bless him in all that he has done.

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WE ARE INDEBTED

To the Misses Gladys Arnold, Grace S. Bruner, Dora L. Ingrum, and Mrs. Azzie M. Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Crowle, and Mrs. J. E. Hauter for their thoughtful gifts for our publication MEXICO.

Colegio Palmore
Chihuahua

COLEGIO PALMORE

This Christian institution was founded over half a century ago. It continues to labor untiringly, trying to impart its teachigs to young people, not only from Chihuahua, but also from other states. At present it has primary, commercial and English departments, and a boarding home for boys. (There is a boarding home for girls under separate management.) Year by year an increasing number of persons seek admission to this institution, because every one knows that its program is one of the best. As the building is small, many students have to be rejected every year, even though some houses have been rented, to provide additional space. Over 1,000 students have been enrolled this year.

In the primary department it has become necessary to have four sections in each grade; in the commercial department, three sections of the first and second years. As there is a larger enroll-

ment than was expected in the English department, all its rooms, which are small, are crowded.

Life in the school runs smoothly. Our aim is to reach the students, not only in their intellectual life, but also, and more important, in their moral and spiritual life. Colegio Palmore has always had the co-operation of teachers who understand that explaining lessons in the classroom is not enough, but that they must be living lessons for their pupils. This has helped combat bad habits among the pupils, has shown them a better way of living, and has stimulated an interest in good literature instead of the inmoral pamphlets so popular among students today.

The teaching of English constitutes a special branch in the activities of the school. Students in the Spanish department have a daily English class, while in the English department, all subjects are taught in that language. We have good teachers, and at the end of the four-year course, our pupils are able to do work in both languages.

The boarding department is under the direction of a capable and consecrated couple, who make it a real home for the boys under their care. The students learn to make good use of their time, devoting their best hours to study. Every morning before breakfast they have a devotional service, at which Scripture is read and explained by one of the teachers. On Sundays they attend Sunday School.

So, gratefully acknowledging the co-operation of others, we carry on, trying to be of help to those around us. Before us as we go forward are our mottoes: "The greatest is he who does the most for others", and "The truth shall make you free".

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MY VISIT TO THE GIRL'S HOSTEL OF PALMORE COLLEGE.

Senora Consuelo L. de Guerra.

One cold afternoon in the month of December, accompanied by my dear friend, Srita. Concepción Ortiz, a teacher in Palmore College, I visited the girls' hostel of that institution.

The dormitory, situated near the college, has a large entrance door. Srita. Ortiz opened the door and then explained to me that each teacher who lives in the building has her own key, permitting her to go and come at will. As we entered the building, a wide hall conducted us to the beautiful central garden or patio which is surrounded by wide corridors and colonial arches. Opening on to these corridors are rooms for various uses of the house, and at the back of the garden is a spacious dining room.

We continued on to the second patio where, on both first and second floors, the girls' own rooms are located. Here we encountered groups of girls whose ages ranged from thirteen to seventeen years. One group with great interest was reading, another group writing, while others were quietly listening as an older girl read aloud to them. "Look," said Srita. Ortiz in high good humor, "these girls are studying, and the teachers complain that they do not study. You can see that they are very studious". Smiling, the students rose and greeted us, their faces reflecting the joy which is always found in youth.

At this moment there came to our ears the words of a familiar song being sung by juvenile voices — "Que lejos estoy del suelo donde he nacido, inmensa nostalgia invade mi pensamiento..." "Who is singing?" I asked. "They are the girls who are washing their clothes," answered one of the students. "They wash, also?" I asked. "Yes, señorita," answered the student, "we can wash, and iron, and there is the ironing room, or if we

Girls' Hostel Family
Colegio Palmore, Chiuahua

wish we can send out our clothes to be washed elsewhere, just whatever one wishes to do." Then, showing me a narrow passage, the student said, "That leads to the China section." Srita. Ortiz furnished further information. "These girls have given names to each section of the dormitory. They refer to that part as the 'China section' because it is so far away; this is the American section, this is the salon of tiles, and here is the patio where they have their fiestas, and at times they remember their far-off homes and occasionally their thoughts bring tears to their eyes." The girls protested in unison, "No, no, we never, cry, and much less now since it is so near Christmas time and we will be leaving to spend the holidays in our own homes." Srita. Ortiz added: "These young girls come not only from the state of Chihuahua but also from different sections of the republic. Whenever I take a trip I seldom fail to meet former Palmore students."

We now say "good-bye" to the students and begin to

ascend the stairs leading up from the front patio to Srita. Ortiz's room on the second floor. Now the chatter of the girls is no longer heard, but instead I hear the sweet notes of the piano interpreting one of the works of the famous Beethoven. While climbing the stairs Srita. Ortiz said to me, "I am happy here. Here there is calm, quiet, and spiritual peace. I have been living here more than a quarter of a century. My family doesn't live in Chihuahua and this is my home. All that you have seen is familiar to me, and nothing unusual. For what more could I wish? The director of the home is good to me, all the teachers are excellent companions and are always willing to extend a helpful hand if there is need. Moreover, we may enjoy our diversions together or each find her own pleasure. As to the students, it is hardly necessary to say that all of them are lovable and kind.

"I form a part of the Palmore family and am very proud to be one of them. I try to make my life useful, doing what I can for the young people. In my position as teacher in the college, as well as here in the boarding home, I take advantage of all the opportunities which present themselves to me."

We reached the apartment of Srita. Ortiz. I took the large chair which she offered me. Everything there is simplicity and cleanliness. I could harly speak. My thoughts were filled with indescribable emotion, for I had been looking into the inmost soul of this institution. A teacher, a college, a dormitory for young girls, the students, some notes written by Beethoven, and the echo of the words: "Qué lejos estoy del suelo donde he nacido..."

The coolness of the evening together with the little bells in the windows of the college announce the nearness of the Christmas season. For a few days the dormitory will not house the merry laughter of the students but the echo will be heard by Srita. Ortiz who remains, looking forward to the return of the little birds who will arrive [illegible] the coming of the New Year.

The scenes which Srita. Ortiz looked upon thirty years ago are repeated: activities of the young girls who have arrived with the hope of preparing themselves culturally, young people who in the rosy dreams of their youth have before them the high stamp of simplicity and the grandeur of soul of those who guide by their example: the teachers of the dormitory.

I shall never forget my visit to the girls' dormitory of Palmore College and I lift a fervent prayer that the excellent work being done there may always receive the blessings of the Heavenly Father and be reflected in each smile, in each tear, and in each heart.

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ACTIVITIES OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONAY SOCIETY

Senora Maria Esther Medrano de Hernandez, President.

The Women's Missionary Society "Lizzie Wilson" of Trinity Church in Chihuahua, with the help of the Lord and the cooperation of all the members, was able to carry out the following program of activities in 1952.

The Spiritual Department, directed by Miss Socorro Cano, not only presented interesting and inspiring messages on each of its programs but also sought to awaken a spirit of prayer by forming circles in the homes and by attending the prayer services held before the regular services in the church. We cooperated in the observance of the World Day of Prayer which began with a sun rise service at which Rev. Fernando Acosta preached an eloquent message. In addition, this Department visited many homes, taking the message of salvation and distributing literature.

The Department of Social Service, under the direction of Mrs. Nieves R. de Santos, systematically helped a blind woman.

an elderly woman, and another member who was ill. On different occasions we helped a nurse from the Central Hospital who was suffering from a pulmonary disease, giving her not only financial but also spiritual aid, visiting her and praying with her. We thank God for restoring her health. She is again working actively at her profession, testifying to the marvels God does in response to our faith. The Department helped, financially, a mother of twins who was in poor health and unable to work. We gave money to a woman 106 years of age, and some of our women carried food to her. We did some visiting in the hospitals and in needy homes, supplying assistance sporadically to a long list of needy ones.

During the first half of the year Mrs. Celia Palafox de Lara distributed material for making garments, and many members cooperated so that in May we had a sale and supper, the proceeds being devoted to the work of the Department. In the second half of the year, Mrs. Bernarda C. de Ramírez, in spite of illness, worked so actively that in December we had another sale and supper. The money helped us meet some of our pledges and pay for such items as a new set of white altar cloths which were used for the first time on Easter and to pay for the floral offerings in the church several times.

The Secretary, Mrs. Lilia Guajardo de Castañeda, well prepared for the task, did excellent work.

The Literature Department, under Mrs. Esther Bustamante de Hernández, faithfully distributed the Year Book, the Upper Room and the Missionary Torch, placing subscriptions of misses Hulda Storm and Olive Givin who prepared very interesting programs, giving biographies of missionaries in distant lands whose lives have been an example and inspiration to us. Miss Sturm, although working independently, wished to report to the Society her visits and experiences, the recital of which proved to be a strength to our faith and a stimulus to our missionary spirit.

The Home Department had two active and enthusiastic 20, 100 and 110 respectively.

The Visitation Committee, Mrs. Dolores Almeida de Casas and Mrs. Gertrudis A. de Coronado, made 162 calls in the homes of our members, and at each meeting reported on the sick and those who had difficult home problems for which they desired special prayer. All this helped greatly to increase the bonds that unite us.

The Treasurer, Mrs. Aurora T. de Hernandez, experienced and dynamic, did her work to perfection, and had the satisfaction, together with the other members, of meeting faithfully all our financial pledges, both locally and to the Conference organization.

The Calendar was carried out and all the special celebrations held on time, many of them being very successful, such as the program for the Roberts Social Center, the program for the Deaconess Pension Fund, and the Day of the World Federation of Methodist Women. At this last meeting Miss Emma L. Eldridge told of attending the last assembly of that body. Several members read items about the work of this organization in different lands and displayed the corresponding flags.

We thank God because He helped us reach our goals, and are grateful to the women for their cooperation, the Spirit of harmony, and the good will they manifested at all times.

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THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT CENTRO CRISTIANO

Emma L. Eldridge, Head Resident.

With Christmas fresh in my mind I want to tell you some of the ways in which the people of Centro Cristiano made it meaningful for others.

The celebration began weeks before Dec. 25, in fact on the Saturday evening before Thanksgiving, when the teachers met and had supper together and talked about ways to bring every one connected with the center into active co-operation to keep Christmas.

As a result of this, our students began to work for two objectives: first, the organization of a big party, with a musical and literary program, that should include all the students and teachers; second, and most important, the formation of projects to be developed by the various student groups. The teen-agers, the grown-ups ranging in age from twenty to sixty were equally enthusiastic. They began to consider what they could do to help people in need, material and spiritual. They began to get better acquainted with their community. Every day was filled with work, preparing materials and raising funds to carry out the chosen project of each group, the choices having been made on the basis of their own investigation.

The history of those four and a half weeks would be most interesting, but time permits me to mention only a few high points there, and to relate the events of the last week that crowned our efforts and left us with the desire to go much farther along that way the next time.

By the 16th of December the preparations for the Christmas program were well rounded up. The students had become quite familiar with Christmas music as they had practiced several hymnas in chorus. So they were delighted when that familiar music and

other beatiful nativity music that they did not know, began to fill the air of the patio and class rooms as it came from Miss Nixon's record player thru its amplifier. Miss Nixon turned the record player over to two of the boys who kept it going thru every free period for two days. Every one enjoyed it as they came and went, and the boys, up to the last hour before vacation, wanted more.

By the nineteenth the committees were all ready for final action. Funds had been raised to pay for the sandwiches, cakes, candies, sodas, etc. that were to be served at the party, and the students who had money bought tickets to be given to those who had none.

Materials were all ready for the social work that was to be done in the next few days. So it was a joyous crowd of people who gathered here that evening, first to sit and listen quietly to the program, then to break the piñata with shouts of laughter, to eat and chat together merrily, and then linger to play games.

The completion of the projects brought the following stories.

A group of teen-agers with their teachers went to the state prison and were admitted according to previous arrangement. They presented a complete Christmas program before the assembled body of about three hundred prisioners who were most appreciative and attentive, and they left a gift of a thousand oranges for them.

The same group visited the General Hospital of the State and sang for the patients and left a gift of oranges. They gave Christmas cards to both prisioners and patients, and they learned from this experience that envelopes and stamps were needed with the cards because the people wanted to send cards to their friends: so next time the envelopes and stamps will be included.

Another student group visited the muncipal hospital for children. They took gay trimmings made of old Christmas cards

and decorated the wards and sang for the children. They gave them scrapbooks and oranges and candy. These scrapbooks and others which were given to the children's ward in our own Sanatorio Palmore were made here in Centro Cristiano by our girls during their vacant periods.

A combined group of youngsters and grown-ups went to the mental hospital and the school for delinquent boys. They were permitted to see only about half of the patients, but they left gifts for all of them. They missed seeing the boys, which was a disappointment, but they left gifts for them. We were glad to know that the boys had all gone down with their director to enjoy the shop windows and see a movie. It is good to know that this correctional school is on such a basis of freedom. A few days later we received an appreciative letter of thanks from the director.

The grown-ups of some of our evening classes took families or individuals as their projects.

One group discovered an old woman who was living alone among the rocks out at the edge of town. They talked with a family living in a house not far from the rocks. The family had a vacant space between their house and their garage, and they agreed to permit the woman to live in that space if the members of the group would buy the materials to construct a roof and the one wall that was needed to enclose the space. The owner of the house said he would do the work himself. The materials were secured, and the lumber dealer, when he heard what it was for, gave a good discount. The group took a supply of food to the woman, and they plan to keep in touch with her during the year.

Another group discovered a girl in the general hospital of the state who had been there many months suffering with arthritis. When they visited her the first time they realized that there was little hope of her recovery unless they supplemented her daily diet with more nourishing food that she was unable to buy, and provided medicines that were too expensive for her to secure. As

the students discussed the case they came to the conclusion that anything they might give her on one special day would be very inadequate. One student said, "Well, why do we celebrate Christmas just one day in the year? We should keep Christmas the year round." And that is what this group is planning to do. They will work systematically for the health of this young woman, from day to day and month to month as long as she needs their help.

Busy young people who work in stores and offices, met here after working hours to bring together their offerings for needy families, and went out in small groups to deliver the packages.

While all the talk about Christmas was going on, one young man said, "Please tell me, just what is the origin of Christmas." A gasp of surprise rose from some of his companions, while others looked bewildered, wondering exactly what answer they could give. The girl sitting next to the questioner said quietly. "Don't you know? I'll lend you my Bible." When they came to the next class the boy said, "Now I have a Bible of my own but I need your help to learn to use it. I do not know how to find the Christmas story in it." So his classmate showed him how to find the second chapter of Luke's gospel. What moments filled with meaning in just an ordinary English class!

Finally we came to the party for our Day Nursey children and their mothers, which is the climax of our holiday festivities. The order of the afternoon on December 22 was that usually followed. The children who have already had a good dinner at noon, are given hot chocolate and sweet bread at about 4 p. m. Then they go to the big patio where they break the piñata and scramble for the candies and nuts that fall from it; and their mothers gather to watch the fun. The children continue playing in the big patio while the mothers are served a good nourishing supper. As twilight gathers, all the children and mothers are ushered into the assembly room lit only by the Christmas tree. After a few songs

and stories the curtain is rolled back and the children have their first view of the gifts that are spread over the whole platform. There are toys enough so that each child may choose the one he likes best, and some are left over. The tiny tots are so awed that it is hard for them to choose, but the older ones with long strides go straight to the toy that has caught the eye.

These toys are not expensive, but are simple wooden things which Miss Nixon designs and makes with the help of some of her pupils and friends. Besides the toys made for our nursey they produced two hundred others this year for the children who go to Palmore clinic. There are cloth dolls and animals, too. These are made by Miss Givin and various helpers. How the little girls love them!

In previous paragraphs the Christmas music has been mentioned in connection with most of our activities. Joyce Curtiss has been responsible for most of that. She gets a ready response from our students as she leads their chorus.

She is the director of our church choir, too. The sacred concert that she and Mrs. Thomas Newberry, the organist, prepared for Christmas Eve brought joy to our hearts. The church was filled with people, and after the service closed each one gave affectionate greetings to all the persons near.

The white gifts had been placed on the altar, and there were provisions to be distributed among forty needy families.

The keynote for all our thought was found in "Keeping Christmas" by Henry Van Dyke. It was translated to Spanish by Sra. María Q. de Frausto, a friend of ours who has just passed her 75th birthday. It was read in our classrooms before Christmas and again in our program. Many persons who heard it asked for copies of it, and it was used in other schools, in Altrusa Club, in our church, and we don't know how much further it went.

We believe that some of our people are Keeping Christmas in their hearts in a new way.

NEW CHURCH IN MONTERREY

The church in Monterrey, N. L., is in the midst of a mighty effort to get the needed funds for the construction of a new church building. The congregation itself has outgrown the capacity of the church. In view of the impossibility of meeting the increasing needs of the members, there was already a plan on foot to replace the present building which, after 52 years of service, is inadequate.

However, the building problem has been accentuated by an order of the municipality decreeing the widening of the street on which the present building stands, which would mean cutting off nearly twenty feet from the width of the sanctuary.

These circumstances have accelerated the organization of a campaign for raising funds to buy a property which is for sale next to our church at the price of $ 300,000.00 pesos. Adding to this amount the $ 750,000 pesos which is the estimated cost of the building, we find that we shall need more than a million pesos ($ 120,000.00 dollars).

We are presenting this need to the pastors and members of the Methodist Church, our mother church, inviting them to cooperate with us in the construction of this church building in Monterrey to help forward the evangelization of our people and be a testimony of faith and trust in God.

May all be done for the honor and glory of God and to hasten the day when our people may worship Christ as their personal Saviour.

Eleazar Guerra Olivares
Bishop of the Methodist Church of Mexico

Raúl Ríos L.
Pastor of the Monterrey Church

Prof. Benigno Elizondo
Chairman of the Organizing Committee

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Miss May B. Seal, Calle 12a. No. 1630.

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